

REMARKS

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 are allowed.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for his helpful remarks during a telephone interview on April 11, 2005. During the telephone interview, proposed amendments to claims 1 and 6 were discussed with respect to the cited prior art reference Turkish, and with respect to a new reference cited by the Examiner, US patent 1,149,518 to Holmes. In the proposed amendments, the applicant amended claims 1 and 6 to recite a) that the threaded portion comprises a substantially uniform, continuous thread which extends over the entire threaded portion, and b) that the unthreaded portion of the bolt was of a length at least as great as that of the threaded portion. In the discussion, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to claim 1 appeared to overcome the prior art, and that the amendments to claim 6 avoided rejection under Turkish, but did not avoid Holmes. The Examiner suggested additional changes to claim 6 which would permit claim 6 to avoid both of these references.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are independent.

The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the references carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. In view thereof, the present Amendment is submitted. It is contended that by the present amendment, all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-9, and 11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Turkish (US 2,542,377). In the rejection, the Examiner states that the screw shown in Turkish's Fig. 2 has a central bore 24 forming a hollow portion as claimed.

Upon review of Turkish, the applicant notes that Turkish discloses a self-locking adjustment screw having a head 12 and a shaft 14 in which the shaft includes a pair of axially spaced threaded portions 16, 18. The threads of first threaded portion 16 are axially offset from the threads of the second threaded portion 18. Intermediate the two threaded portions 16, 18 is a reduced unthreaded portion 20. The reduced portion 20 is provided with plural helix slots 22 so as to provide axial resiliency, and the shaft 14 may also include a central bore 24 extending from the extremity of shank 14 through second threaded portion 18 and throughout the length of the unthreaded portion 22.

Although the applicant agrees that Turkish discloses the invention as broadly claimed in claims 1 and 6, the applicant respectfully asserts that the applicant's invention is clearly different from that of Turkish. Specifically, the applicant's male thread formed on the exterior surface of the bolt is a single continuous thread, whereas Turkish discloses plural thread sections having corresponding relative thread offsets so as to achieve the self-locking feature of that invention.

In addition, the applicant discloses a bolt having a lengthy shank portion, wherein the shank includes both a non-threaded portion and a threaded portion. As seen in the applicant's Figures 2, 4, and 5, the non-threaded cylindrical portion 43 is at least as long as the threaded portion 44. The non-threaded cylindrical portion is provided in a length which permits it to

extend completely through the bottom journal supporting wall 32 of the bottom half of the crankcase 3. As seen in Fig 2, for example, the threaded portion 44 begins at approximately the transition between the bottom journal supporting wall 32 and the top journal supporting wall 31.

Therefore, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 herein to more clearly distinguish the applicant's invention from that disclosed in the prior art. Specifically, these claims have been amended herein to recite that the male thread is substantially uniform and continuous along the length of the threaded portion. These claims have been additionally amended to include a recitation that the cylindrical portion has a length which is at least as long as the length of the threaded portion. Claim 6 has been further amended herein to recite that the fastener includes a head portion, and that the cylindrical body portion is unthreaded. These features are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art, and thus reconsideration of the rejection and the withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

As regards claim 7, the applicant respectfully disagrees that Turkish discloses a threaded fastener in which the end portion comprises a tip having a conically tapered hole therein in communication with the cylindrical bore, as recited by the applicant. Turkish does not disclose a tapered hole formed at the tip of the end portion. In contrast, the applicant discloses such a structure at the location wherein the hollow portion intersects the terminal end of the applicant's bolt. Specifically, the applicant provides an outwardly opening taper 45b, which results in a thin portion 44b1 at the terminal end of bolt 40. This thin portion 44b1 is critical to permitting the terminal thread turn 44a to be more elastically deformed than the remainder of the elastic portion (as defined by the depth of hole 45 within bolt 40), thereby reducing the concentrated stress of the terminal end of the bolt on the female threads of the engine case hole.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turkish. The Examiner states that Turkish discloses the claimed invention except for an express disclosure of the fastener being made of a ferrous metal. The Examiner further states that it would have been obvious to make the fastener of Turkish from a ferrous metal since such fasteners are commonly made of a ferrous metal and it has been held that a selection of a known material is obvious. However, the applicant notes that claim 10 depends from claim 6, and claim 6 is now in condition for allowance. Thus, claim 10 is also in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 2-5.

Conclusion

For all of the above mentioned reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of record, and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure, including the drawings and claims, no new matter is introduced by the above amendments. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of the allowability all of the claims now in the application, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's

undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve prosecution of the application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

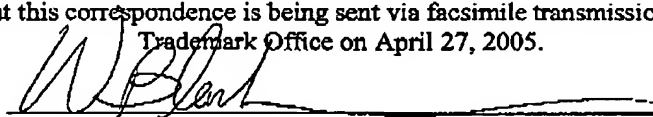


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April 27, 2005

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